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July 9, 2023

True Wisdom Is for the Simple-hearted



by Sr. Bernardita Dianzon, FSP

In the fourth century, the Church had to wage battle against one of the most stubborn doctrinal errors it ever had to reckon with. A priest, named Arius, claimed that even though Jesus was God's Son, he himself was not God: rather he was an extraordinary lofty creature, higher than any human being or angel. This teaching came to be known as Arianism and was officially condemned by the Church in the Council of Nicea, where the "Nicene Creed" which we profess today was formulated.

The interesting thing in this historical account is that even if Arianism had already been condemned, for the next sixty years it continued to be preserved and presented as the authentic faith confession at almost every level of the Church and in virtually every capital and corner of Christendom. Only a few bishops did not succumb to Arianism, and St. Athanasius, the most daring voice against this erroneous teaching, was

driven five times into exile.

Why then did Arianism not prevail when the very leaders of the Church had been infected by it? Who continued to uphold the Nicene confession that Jesus is "God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father?" Surprisingly, it was not the theologians nor the scholars, but the simple people, the ordinary people. The mass of ordinary Christians—peasants, housewives, young people—were the ones who refused to accept Arianism under the pain of excommunication, persecution, and even martyrdom. They did not want any teaching that made Jesus less than the Incarnation of God. To these simple people with the simple faith of children, the Father revealed the truth which he kept hidden from the "learned and clever" leaders of the Church of that time.

Jesus' prayer of praise in today's Gospel Reading is an affirmation of his Father's

way of operating in human history: He "reveals to the merest children what he keeps hidden from the learned and the wise." God works contrary to the expectations of the world. He overturns its values.

The greatest embodiment of this paradox is none other than Jesus. He is the "child" par excellence, the meek and humble of heart. And because of this, the Father, who privileges the merest children in revealing heavenly wisdom, "has given everything to Jesus," that is, every knowledge, including the exclusive knowledge of the Father himself: "No one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." If "being a child" is a condition for becoming a partaker of that knowledge, then the Gospel's invitation to us is that we enter into the simplicity and trustfulness of the merest children. And from whom do we learn this if not from Jesus, the "child" par excellence?

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 48[47]:10–11)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—We all seek peace and happiness. Some people hope to find these in wealth, power, and success. But we know that the human heart remains restless amid all the sources of satisfaction that the world offers.

Jesus reveals to us what is hidden to the learned and the clever: that true peace and happiness can be ours if we live in him and for him.

Penitential Rite

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

P—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading

(Zec 9:9–10) *(Sit)*

Zechariah pictures the Prince of Peace as a humble king who enters Jerusalem. This oracle is fulfilled in Jesus who enters Jerusalem in triumph, riding on an ass.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah

THUS says the LORD: Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an

ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; the warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

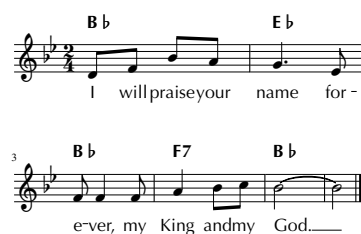
— The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 145)

R—I will praise your name forever, my king and my God.

Sr. M.C.A Parco, fsp



1. I will extol you, O my God and King,/ and I will bless your name forever and ever./ Every day will I bless you,/ and I will praise your name forever and ever. **(R)**

2. The LORD is gracious and merciful,/ slow to anger and of great kindness./ The LORD is good to all/ and compassionate toward all his works. **(R)**

3. Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,/ and let your faithful ones bless you./ Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom/ and speak of your might. **(R)**

4. The LORD is faithful in all his words/ and holy in all his works./ The LORD lifts up all who are falling/ and raises up all who are bowed down. **(R)**

Second Reading

(Rom 8:9, 11–13)

Jesus frees us from the burden of sin and gives the liberating Spirit who dwells in our hearts and stirs us to a new life of grace.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: You are not in the flesh; on

the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you. Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

—The word of the Lord.
All—Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (Cf. Mt 11:25) (*Stand*)

All—Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mt 11:25–30)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

AT THAT time Jesus exclaimed: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.”

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

—The Gospel of the Lord
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (*Sit*)

Profession of Faith (*Stand*)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (At the words that follow up to and including and became man, all bow.) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Jesus reveals to us that God is gentle and compassionate, slow to anger and of great kindness. This prompts us to approach the Father with trust as we pray:

R—Father, make our burden light.

C—May the Church, under Pope Francis’ leadership, stand up to the cause of peace, justice, and love—especially in places where war, oppression, and the culture of death continue to reign. We pray: **(R)**

C—May our bishops, priests, and deacons prove to be worthy ministers by their simplicity of life and their words of solace and encouragement. We pray: **(R)**

C—May the leaders of nations and all government officials work for peace and justice and attend to the welfare of the poor and the homeless. We pray: **(R)**

C—May those who are oppressed by dehumanizing systems, elderly people weighed down by loneliness, and families separated by quarrels and financial problems find consolation in you, O God. We pray: **(R)**

C—May you give healing hope and comfort to those who are sick and abandoned by their family and grant eternal rest to those who have died today. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

P—Heavenly Father, hear our supplications. Do not allow us to be overwhelmed by confusion, doubt, and discord, but fill us with faith and courage through, with, and in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

All—Amen.



Presentation of the Gifts (*Stand*)

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—May this oblation dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface (Ordinary Time II)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross, he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead, he gave us life eternal.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:
All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)

Acclamation (Stand)

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

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Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Mt 11:28)

Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P—Let us pray. (Pause)

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

May the God of all consolation order your days in his peace and grant you the gifts of his blessing.

All—Amen.

P—May he free you always from every distress and confirm your hearts in his love.
All—Amen.

P—So that on this life's journey you may be effective in good works, rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity, and may come happily to eternal life.
All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass has been offered. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.

DOING ALL FOR THE GOSPEL!